

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Sascha Doekel et al.

Application No. (unknown)

Filed: October 1, 2001

FOR: MICROBIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION METHOD FOR  $\alpha$ -L-ASPARTYL-L-PHENYLALANINE



Group Art Unit: unknown

Examiner: unknown

\* \* \* \* \*

January 2, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the following amendment in the application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the top of the first page, just under the title, please insert the following new heading and paragraph:

--Cross-Reference to Related Applications

B' This Application is a continuation of International Application PCT/NL00/00206, filed March 28, 2000, which designated the U.S. and was published in the English language, and which further claims priority from European Application No. 99203518.8, filed October 26, 1999, European Application No. 99200954.8, filed March 29, 1999, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/133,402, filed May 10, 1999, the entirety of each incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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